

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/075,392

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 dated May 11, 2006

In Response to the Supplemental Notice of Allowance Dated February 16, 2006

REMARKS

This Amendment under Rule 312 is in response to the Supplemental Notice of Allowability dated February 16, 2006. The Supplemental Notice of Allowability indicated that a Substitute Declaration was required to be submitted. The Supplemental Notice of Allowability indicated that the originally filed Declaration was defective.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephone interview on April 19, 2006, with applicants' representative Scott Balderston. During that telephone interview, the Examiner confirmed that all the inventors' signatures are properly presented in the original Declaration filed July 21, 1998. The Examiner indicated during that telephone interview that the requirement for a substitute Declaration was withdrawn. The Interview Summary dated May 9, 2006, confirms that the originally filed Declaration complies with 37 CFR 1.67(a) and that no substitute Declaration is necessary. Accordingly, this requirement is deemed moot. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Supplemental Notice of Allowability dated February 16, 2006, also required amendment of the Abstract to conform to the length limit of 150 words set out in MPEP 608.01(b). Applicants submit herewith a new replacement Abstract that complies with that word limit.

Applicants note that payment of the Issue Fee on this application was made February 16, 2005. The submission of this Amendment under Rule 312 therefore completes all formalities required for this application, and prompt passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

Applicants also note that the Status Letter dated March 24, 2006, responding to applicants' status inquiry filed January 26, 2006, indicates that the corrected Filing Receipt for this application

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is in process but has not yet been issued. Applicants respectfully request prompt issuance of a corrected Filing Receipt that accurately reflects all filing information, prior to issuance of the application.

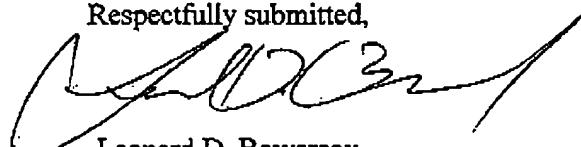
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and timely issuance of the present application.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants or Applicants' undersigned representative is desirable and/or necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to deposit Account No. 50-0925. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Leonard D. Bowersox
Reg. No. 33,226

KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
3603-E Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Tel.: (703) 385-9688
Fax: (703) 385-9719